

QUARTER-FINAL PLACE AS BY PRESSURE IN SECOND HALF

Berks & Bucks F.A. 3,
Kent F.A. 0

BERKS & BUCKS F.A. clinched their section title and a place in the Southern Counties Amateur Championship quarter finals with three goals in a second half they dominated throughout at Maidenhead United's York Road ground on Wednesday night.

With a sound victory over Hertfordshire to their credit, the Allied Counties had only Kent left between them and the last eight. But it took them quite some time to make sure of things.

Not until the second period did Barry Darvill's men stamp authority on an experienced visiting squad which lacked the class necessary to override their hosts.

SIX BLUES

The home team fielded six Wycombe Wanderers — a seventh, goalkeeper John Maskell was moving house and thus unavailable. Instead Wokingham Town's Callington stepped in, as did his terrier like team mate, right-back Titterton.

Otherwise, with Chesham's young Steve Bates retaining the left-back spot, only Maidenhead spearhead Mick Chatterton coming in for Leo Markham of Marlow, saw any change to Darvill's side.

The fixture, which had been taken away from Slough Town after their manager Tommy Lawrence withdrew three players from the Hertfordshire clash, provided an extra kick in the teeth for the Rebels.

For Berks and Bucks got along admirably and always had the measure of the Kent men, for whom former Marlow striker, Keith Uphill was wearing the number nine shirt. In fact Uphill, who has gained representative honours with Berks and Bucks in past seasons, rarely emerged during the evening.

Kent's two liveliest performers both came from the Maidstone United team which gave

Wycombe such a spirited opposition in Kent early in the season.

The bearded John Mears, down as a full-back, was their most constructive worker in building up attacks, even if he did so to the neglect of his defensive role.

His right-wing colleague, Osborne, generally proved a harassment to a home defence in which Bates looked several times less confident than the exuberant Titterton, and John Delaney spent much of the game limping unhappily after going down with, an early leg injury.

Ted Powell wielded his usual steady effect and did much to keep the play as far upfield as possible, however.

On an unpredictable pitch the first half moved along swiftly without really going anywhere, as both defences tended to blanket their opposing attacks.

Gradually it became clear the Berks and Bucks would wear Kent down, and Geoff Anthony lashed a strong shot over the bar in mid-period.

A precise, penetrating run by Larry Pritchard brought visiting 'keeper Fullagher off his line to smother his long through pass, yet it was Callington who, out of necessity, pulled off the save of the half in tipping Collins' long-ranged kick over for an injury-time corner.

Soon after the interval the Allied Counties' twin spearhead of Chatterton and Aylesbury's Bobby Harper got to work with added conviction.

Fullagher made his fair share of fine saves in the latter 45 minutes. Yet after 54 minutes he was powerless to prevent the home side going one up. From an Anthony pass, Chatterton lined up his shot and belted it hard into the back netting.

In the lead and sighting success, Berks and Bucks continued to up the tempo of play, although not until after Mears had almost forced an equaliser via a long ball into the goalmouth, did they add to their lead.

Johnny Hutchinson, active as ever, rammed the ball under Fullagher's diving body after the home team had emerged with possession from an 80th minute tussle on the edge of Kent's area.

In front of his home crowd — albeit bulging with Wycombe fans on the night — Chatterton struck the coup de grace three minutes from time, when Harper juggled to keep possession, then centred from near the right-corner flag. Hutchinson nodded the ball on and the centre-forward shot at close range to make it 3-0 and tie up an already packaged victory.

M.W.

BERKS AND BUCKS: B. Callington (Wokingham); G. Titterton (Wokingham); S. Bates (Chesham); E. Powell, J. Delaney, I. Maclean; G. Anthony, L. Pritchard, M. Chatterton (Maidenhead), R. Harper (Aylesbury), J. Hutchinson. Sub.: L. Markham (Marlow) not used. Unless otherwise stated players are from Wycombe.

Referees: Mr. D. A. Hedges (Oxfordshire F.A.).

Half-time: 0-0. **Goalscorers:** Berks & Bucks—Chatterton 2 (54, 87), Hutchinson (80).